

REMARKS

Claims 16-30 are pending in the present application. Claims 17-27 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Claims 16, 29 and 30 were amended to incorporate the allowable matter identified in claim 17. Claims 17 and 28 were canceled, without prejudice. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendments. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

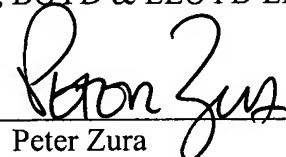
Claims 16, 28, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Popovic* (U.S. Patent No. 6,567,482). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

In light of the present amendments, Applicants submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 has been overcome and should be withdrawn. Accordingly, Applicant submit that the application is in condition for allowance and request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY



Peter Zura
Reg. No. 48,196
Customer No.: 29177
Phone: (312) 807-4208

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